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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 43 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 2 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 1 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to you, transmitting the full text of the Joint Communiqué of the Second Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi, held on 31 July 1996 in the northern town of Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The communiqué was unanimously adopted by all the participants present.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 43 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daudi N. MWAKAWAGO
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, at the invitation of H.E. President Benjamin W. Mkapa, a Summit Meeting was convened in Arusha yesterday, 31 July 1996, to consider the prevailing situation in Burundi in the aftermath of a military take-over of the Government there.

In this respect, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the Joint Communiqué issued by the leaders of the region following that Summit Meeting.

Allow me to draw your particular attention to paragraph 11 on the decision to impose sanctions against the regime in Bujumbura and paragraph 14 on the preparedness of the countries of the region to cooperate with the United Nations and make an appropriate contribution towards the adoption of measures aimed at averting a catastrophe in the event of further deterioration of the situation in Burundi. The support of the United Nations and the international community is requested.

I request you to circulate the communiqué as a document of both the General Assembly and the Security Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure.

(Signed) Jakaya M. KIKWETE, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

APPENDIX

Joint Communiqué of the Second Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi, held on 31 July 1996

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Presidents Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, Pasteur Bizimingu of Rwanda, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo of Zaire met and held talks on 31 July 1996 in Arusha, on the current situation in Burundi.

2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, Ferdinand Leopold Oyano, representing the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Secretary-General of OAU, Salim Ahmed Salim, and the Facilitator of the Burundi peace talks, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere.

3. The Regional Summit affirms that the immediate problem of the current political situation in Burundi is basically that of illegality, which is the culmination of the deliberate process which started in October 1993. The Summit feels that this will deepen the conflict in Burundi and worsen the security and stability of the whole subregion.

4. The Regional Summit strongly condemns the coup in Burundi and reiterates the imperative necessity to end the illegality and restore constitutional order.

5. The Regional Summit recalls the decision of the OAU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government which met in Yaoundé in July 1996 and which fully endorses the Mwanza peace process and the Arusha initiative.

6. It also recalls the statement issued by President Paul Biya, the Chairman of OAU, the decision of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts, dated 25 July 1996, and the statement of the President of the United Nations Security Council dated 24 July 1996 (S/PRST/1996/31).

7. The Regional Summit calls on the Bujumbura regime to immediately undertake specific measures aimed at returning to constitutional order, including:

(a) Immediate restoration of the National Assembly, which is a democratic institution of legality that has derived its mandate from the people of Burundi;

(b) Immediate unbanning of political parties in the country.

8. The Regional Summit calls on the regime to undertake immediate and unconditional negotiations with all the parties to the conflict. It stresses that these negotiations should include parties and armed factions inside and outside the country.

9. The Regional Summit underlines that the framework of these negotiations should be the Mwanza peace process, reinforced by the Arusha peace initiative,

under the auspices of Mwalimu Nyerere, which seeks to guarantee security and democracy for all the people of Burundi.

10. The Regional Summit firmly reiterates its call for an immediate end to killings and massacres. In this regard, the Regional Summit urges all involved parties to respect this call.

11. The Regional Summit decided to exert maximum pressure on the regime in Bujumbura, including the imposition of economic sanctions in order to bring about conditions which are conducive to a return to normalcy in Burundi. In this regard, the Summit strongly appeals to the international community to support the efforts and measures taken by the countries of the region.

12. The Regional Summit calls upon all the parties to scrupulously abide by the Mwanza peace process and to refrain from taking any action which would undermine the efforts towards peace, security and stability.

13. The Regional Summit takes note with appreciation of the task undertaken by the Technical Committee which has been specifically mandated to look into modalities of providing security assistance as envisaged by the Regional Summit of 25 June 1996.

14. In this regard, the Regional Summit reaffirms its commitment to implement the Arusha Summit conclusions and calls on the regime in Bujumbura to facilitate their implementation. The Summit also calls upon all the parties in conflict to abide by the Arusha initiative. At the same time, it declares its preparedness to cooperate fully with the United Nations and to make its contribution as appropriate towards the adoption of measures aimed at avoiding a catastrophe in the country in the event of the further deterioration of the situation. In this context, the Regional Summit strongly stresses the importance of closer cooperation and better coordination between the United Nations and OAU, as well as with the countries of the region.

15. The Regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania for playing host to the Second Regional Summit in Arusha, and to the Tanzanian Government for the hospitality accorded to them and their delegations.

16. DONE at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 31 July 1996.

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Fifty-first session
Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report has been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/1 of 12 October 1995. Its purpose is to facilitate a review by the Assembly of the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

2. A significant development in recent years has been the activation of subregional organizations and the emergence of new subregional groupings to pursue cooperative endeavours among neighbouring countries in order to strengthen the development momentum. The United Nations has remained alert to these developments and has sought to harness the potential offered by these opportunities for the benefit of member States.

3. A case in point is the growing cooperation between ECO and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Given the fact that the 10 States members of ECO are also members of ESCAP and that several of them share common problems as economies in transition, a memorandum of understanding between ECO and ESCAP was signed on 7 July 1993.

4. Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, ECO and ESCAP agreed to cooperate and collaborate, to the extent possible, on development issues and concerns of mutual interest; to develop and implement, as appropriate, joint projects, including organizing workshops, seminars and meetings on mutually identified areas of priority concern; to exchange analytical reports and technical publications on relevant economic and social development issues; to establish linkages through the exchange of information, documentation and ideas; and to cooperate in providing inputs to their respective technical committees.

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The memorandum of understanding also covers specific fields for collaboration between the two organizations.

5. In the transport sector, ESCAP participated in a meeting of transport ministers of ECO member countries, which was held at Almaty, Kazakstan, in October 1993 and which adopted an outline plan for the development of the transport sector in the ECO region. ESCAP also collaborated with ECO in the implementation of a training seminar on land transport facilitation measures, held at Tehran, in November 1994. Under the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development project, being implemented by ESCAP, three studies involving ECO countries were completed in 1995, on: (a) land transport linkages from Kazakstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to seaports in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan and to China in the east; (b) development of a highway network in the Central Asian republics; and (c) development of the Trans-Asian Railway in the southern corridor of Asian-European routes.

6. A project has been jointly prepared by ECO and ESCAP for the purpose of undertaking a survey of economic resources to identify opportunities for closer cooperation among the countries members of ECO. Discussions are also under way between ECO and ESCAP on provision of technical assistance in the areas of privatization and private sector development in the Central Asian republics, macro-economic reforms, access of women to formal credit, and increased productivity of the informal sector.

7. A framework for regular dialogue between the two organizations has been established through the Consultative Meetings between the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP. The third Consultative Meeting is expected to be hosted by the ECO secretariat at Tehran during the first half of 1997.

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Fifty-first session
Item 71 of the provisional agenda*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 24 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a seven-point action programme on anti-personnel mines, presented by Dr. Klaus Kinkel, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, on 18 July 1996.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tono EITEL

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ANNEX

Seven-point action programme on anti-personnel mines presented by Dr. Klaus Kinkel, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, on 18 July 1996 in Bonn

Every year some 20,000 people worldwide are killed or maimed by mines. It is estimated that there exist 85 to 100 million uncleared land-mines in 65 countries. Anti-personnel mines kill and maim week in, week out hundreds of civilians worldwide. They are an ever present threat to life and limb, even years after fighting has ended.

We must do everything possible to put an end to this tragedy. The Federal Government has taken action. In January 1996, it imposed a unilateral unlimited moratorium on all exports of anti-personnel mines. In April 1996, the Federal Armed Forces relinquished totally and unconditionally the use of anti-personnel mines. Existing stocks will be destroyed. The Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which ended on 3 May 1996, agreed on more extensive prohibitions and restrictions on land-mines. This was an urgently needed step but does not go far enough.

I therefore propose a seven-point action programme on anti-personnel mines:

1. An international ban on anti-personnel mines. This cruel and inhumane weapon must be once and for all eradicated from the face of the Earth. Germany has banned anti-personnel mines from its weapons arsenals. Some of the Federal Government's partners in the European Union (EU) have taken similar action. This must be our starting-point. Objectives such as a total ban on anti-personnel mines, a complete ban on exports and effective mine clearance must be made key elements of the new EU joint action. I have already asked my colleagues for their support on this issue. Europe-wide action alone cannot, however, solve the problem. I have therefore instructed German embassies and German missions to international organizations to make démarches to the relevant bodies with a view to adopting a common approach to outlawing the use of anti-personnel mines worldwide.

2. Helping with mine clearance, educating people about the dangers posed by mines and training mine-clearance personnel in countries affected. Practical programmes and pragmatic assistance in these areas are urgently needed. Top priority must be given to mine clearance. All existing resources allocated to work in this field by the EU, the United Nations and in national budgets must be pooled and made optimum use of. The Federal Government will continue to do all in its power to support technical innovations offering hope of speedier and safer mine clearance. Despite the current budgetary constraints I will strongly urge that German efforts in this area be still further intensified over the years ahead.

3. Contribution of the Federal Armed Forces. Educating people and training experts in mine detection and clearance are both crucial to the successful solution of the land-mine problem. In this field the Federal Armed Forces have particular expertise. The Federal Ministry of Defence is working on

plans to offer mine-clearance training in Germany or to send training teams to improve mine clearance in affected countries, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This initiative on the part of the Federal Minister of Defence has my full support. In consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, an exchange of data on mines with the Mine Documentation Centre of the Federal Armed Forces has already been agreed and implemented.

4. Participation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Western European Union (WEU) in the efforts to tackle the global mine problem. In the search for a solution to this worldwide problem, NATO and WEU should no longer stand on the sidelines. I have contacted the NATO and WEU Secretaries-General to ask them to do everything in their power to support these efforts. Possible contributions might be the development of revised deployment concepts and the transfer of expertise to assist mine-clearance activities in Europe.

5. The speediest and widest possible application of the Revised Mine Protocol. The Review Conference of the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on 3 May 1996 adopted a Revised Mine Protocol. However, the more extensive prohibitions and restrictions agreed upon fall short of the Federal Government's goals and expectations. The Federal Government wants to see a total ban on anti-personnel mines. The Revised Mine Protocol is a first step in this direction which now has to be consolidated. It must therefore swiftly enter into force and all States are called upon to accede to it. In fact, some of the States most affected by the mine problem have not yet acceded to the Protocol. I shall appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede immediately.

6. Contributions to solving the mine problem - a criterion for technical and financial cooperation. The uncleared anti-personnel mines in 65 countries all over the world also pose an enormous problem for development. Until minefields are finally cleared, affected agricultural land is rendered unusable for years. Affected countries themselves must play a larger part than in the past in the efforts to tackle the problem of anti-personnel mines. I shall press for their constructive cooperation in this area to be from now on a criterion for participation in our financial and technical cooperation programmes.

7. Support for international efforts to cope with the mine problem. In the Security Council of the United Nations I shall strongly urge that mine clearance be part of the functions of United Nations peace-keeping missions. The magnitude and complexity of the land-mine problem call for a joint approach on the part of Germany and its partners, which are also heavily committed to solving this problem. President Clinton recently presented a United States initiative and both Canada and Japan have this year organized symposia on the issue. The land-mine problem is also featuring ever more largely on the agenda of the United Nations.